



# First 100 days O'Farrell Government report

# 100 days of the O'Farrell/Stoner Government: Premier showing deliberate but steady approach to governing

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"This first 100 days of the O'Farrell Government is a solid start. The Premier has shown a deliberate but steady approach to governing since his election in March. Under his leadership we have seen an end to the 'NSW soap opera' which tarnished the State's reputation and hindered our ability to attract business", said Stephen Cartwright, CEO of NSW Business Chamber.

"We should not be under any illusions that the difficult issues left by the last Government, could or would be solved within the first 100 days.

"We are aware that issues around transport and infrastructure will take years before we can see meaningful improvements. The Government does have a period of grace in these areas because of the long lead times in planning and funding infrastructure and transport, but the clock is ticking."

Mr Cartwright praised the Government for moving decisively on a number of issues that impact the competitive position of NSW.

"Reforms such as the establishment of Infrastructure NSW, the signup to national harmonisation of OH&S and the linking of public sector wages growth to productivity will all play a part in changing the culture within NSW.

"In coming weeks I anticipate we will also see announcements in relation to the Commission of Audit and the establishment of the Public Service Commission which will also be significant parts of the architecture needed to create a culture of accountability and innovation within the public sector.

"The Budget in September will also give an indication of the willingness of the Government to get better taxpayer value and to deliver better services. The Treasurer has argued consistently for a more aggressive approach to the contestability of services throughout Government and I hope we will see greater evidence of that across Government over the next year.

"We are yet to see any meaningful changes in the Education and Training portfolios. Frankly, with NSW expecting skills shortages for many years, Government needs to be working closer with industry in helping ensure our young people are best prepared for the workforce.

"In the small business portfolio, the decisions by Minister Hodgkinson to appoint a NSW Small Business Commissioner and to set '30 day payment turnarounds' for Government agencies are meaningful developments for the State's 300,000 small businesses."

Mr Cartwright acknowledged that the new Government had made some mistakes in its first 100 days.

"There have also been a few hiccups such as the handling of the solar rebate scheme and the unusual treatment of the Treasury Secretary, but I would expect any new Government to make a few minor mistakes in its first few months.

"The Premier and the Deputy Premier both seem very comfortable with the apparatus of Government and do seem to be seeking to drive meaningful change throughout the Government. They are clearly setting out to deliver a deliberate but achievable change agenda.

"Across the Government we are seeing strong interactions with business from Ministers like Mike Baird, Gladys Berejiklian, Greg Pearce, Brad Hazzard, Anthony Roberts and Duncan Gay. We welcome the meaningful and deliberate process of industry consultation that has occurred to date.

"I do however believe that the Government still has to shift some of its thinking from that of being in Opposition. It's clear that the 24 hour news cycle and its focus on the short term are still having some influence on this new Government. Hopefully the passage of time will sort that one out.

"Overall, we would say that it has been an encouraging start, but it won't be until about the one year mark that we will have a better idea of how successful the Government will be in transforming the way that the State operates."

# Business actions undertaken

by the O'Farrell Stoner Government in its first 100 days in office

## Premier and Minister for Western Sydney

- Appointed Chairman of the Public Service Commission Board. The Commission will be tasked with:
  - Establishing and enforcing high ethical standards – by setting a clear code of conduct and imposing sanctions where there are breaches of the ethical standards expected of public servants;
  - Strengthening public sector performance by creating a culture which attracts and retains the best employees;
  - Ensuring that public sector positions are appointed on merit;
  - Putting the citizen at the centre of service delivery, and ensuring the sector collaborates with not-for-profit organisations in providing responsive services.
- Established a Special Commission of Inquiry into the former Government's electricity sell-off.
- Introduced legislation for the creation of Infrastructure NSW and appointed its first CEO, Chairman and Board.
- Introduced legislation to regulate lobbyists, ban success fees, and to strengthen whistle-blower protections and the ICAC.
- Established a panel of Constitutional Experts to consider and advise on recall elections and a People's Petition.
- Re-committed Government to the previous Government's Public Sector Wages Policy. The policy provides wage increases of 2.5% and for further increases that are the result of productivity increases.
- Committed the NSW Government to opposing the Carbon Tax.

## Deputy Premier, Minister for Trade and Investment, and Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services

- Appointed a new Director General for NSW Trade and Investment.
- Appointed a Parliamentary Secretary for Asia Pacific Trade.
- Commenced establishment of a NSW Export and Advisory Board and a Multicultural Business Advisory Panel.
- Announced commitment to appoint a Cross Border Commissioner who will report annually to Parliament on progress dealing with cross-border issues.

## Minister for Education

- Established a Ministerial Advisory Group on Literacy and Numeracy.

## Minister for Roads and Ports

- Undertaking an audit of road speed zones across the state.
- Commenced negotiations on the M5 widening with a view to completing them by the end of July.

## Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW

- Scrapped Part 3A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act.
- Established a Planning Review Panel to start the process of drafting a new Planning Act. The Panel will undertake wide community consultation.
- Introduced legislation to establish Restart NSW, the NSW Government's Infrastructure Fund.
- Established a review into the Barangaroo planning process.

### Minister for Resources and Energy, Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Central Coast

- Capped State owned energy company dividends at existing forecast levels. The Government will require boards to sign off that dividends will not impact on electricity prices for customers.

### Minister for Transport

- Commenced fast tracking of North West Rail Link. Project team selected and work commenced on planning and budgeting for the rail link.
- Reduced monthly, quarterly and annual train fares for commuters from July 1.
- Incorporated existing light rail services from Central to Lilyfield into the MyZone ticketing system.
- Launched an expression of interest for the franchising of Sydney Ferries.
- Established an Integrated Transport Authority.

### Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality and Racing, and Minister for the Arts

- Established *Destination NSW* to start bidding for major events.
- Called for expressions of interest to deliver a world class exhibition and convention centre at Darling Harbour.
- Introduced legislation for new '3 Strikes' approach to problem-licensed venues.
- Established the Visitor Economy Taskforce.
- Expressed opposition to the Federal Government's pre-commitment poker machine legislation.

### Treasurer

- Passed legislation to repeal the *homebuyers' tax* to take effect from July 2011.
- Implemented the 'Empty Nester' Transfer Duty Concession to over 55's for sales between 1 July 2011 and 30 June 2012.

### Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra

- Introduced a payroll tax concession of \$4,000 payable over 24 months for new jobs created by employers as part of the Government's 100,000 new job strategy.
- Committed NSW to National harmonisation of Occupational Health and Safety Acts.
- Passage of revamped Occupational Health and Safety Act in NSW.

### Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Small Business

- Appointment of first NSW *Small Business Commissioner*.
- Introduced legislation for NSW Government agencies to pay their bills within 30 days to small businesses or pay interest on outstanding amounts.

### Attorney General and Minister for Justice

- Introduced legislation to toughen laws relating to graffiti vandals.



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